

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a customer of DIRECTV, I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me local TV channels via satellite in my market area, which I currently do not receive.

Broadband access to the Internet is not available to me at this time. If the merger is approved, the new company will be able to provide me with affordable high-speed Internet access via satellite along with the other 40 million American households who do not have affordable high-speed Internet access now.

For example: I have inquired of my local cable service provider (Adelphia Communications), on three different visits to their local office in Greene County, Virginia, as to when I might be able to obtain access to their "PowerLink" High-Speed Cable internet access.

Their response was: 6 to 12 months. I've been waiting over 2 years for access to this service.

A second example: DSL, which is offered by Sprint in my area, is not an option. As where I live, is not within the 2 mile area of the closest central switching office in Stanardsville, VA.

I appreciate your consideration of my views. And, I ask you to strongly support the pending EchoStar merger with Hughes.

Sincerely,

Paul Saam
137 East Daffodil Road
Ruckersville, VA 22968